



Town of Wellesley
Facilities Maintenance Department
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Principals,

I'm contacting you to share some good news about the District's on-going "*Green Cleaning*" initiative. Please see the attached poster which helps explain green cleaning. Full size copies of the posters were provided to your Head Custodians for prominent placement at your schools.

One of the big changes we recently made has to do with our cleaning products. We recently changed over our cleaning supplies to a system that includes all "green seal" certified products. We will now be using automatic dispensing systems that ensure appropriate mixing and eliminate direct contact with chemical concentrates. Proper mixing minimizes off-gassing problems that can affect indoor air quality (IAQ). Much of our cleaning will involve using a peroxide-based, multi-surface cleaner, an enzyme-based cleaner that helps with odor control and a neutral cleaner for typical areas such as floor and classrooms. All are "green seal certified" which means they have undergone testing by an independent agency. This change is also part of an industry push to avoid overuse of disinfectants, which can also cause health issues. You may have already noticed the positive effects that the products have in the bathrooms throughout your schools – brightening tile floors and improving odors.

Other parts of the initiative include equipment and furnishings – some of which we are using now, and some that we hope to purchase through the budget process. For example, we are using backpack vacuums with HEPA filters, for not only carpeted areas but also for hard surface flooring like vinyl tile, as a way to remove dust, dirt and other airborne debris. The new High School will be the first school in the District to utilize orbital floor scrubbing machines that can clean and strip floors using only a neutral cleaner, rather than using the harsh stripping chemicals that had previously been required. I've requested several of these machines for other schools in the FY13 capital budget. We also utilize "walk-off mats" at door entries, which is one more way to keep dirt and contaminants out of the schools. We also started using pressure (garden) sprayers as a way to more efficiently and effectively sanitize bathrooms, by flood-coating surfaces with the peroxide and enzyme products and hitting the hard-to-reach areas.

Finally, we are providing more training to the custodial staff with regard to proper cleaning techniques and equipment maintenance, as part of more regular professional development meetings. Good, effective school cleaning requires appropriate staffing levels, regular training and modern equipment, and the Facilities Department will continue to strive to improve all three areas, so that you, your staff and the students have a proper learning environment.

Please call me if you have any questions about Green Cleaning or ideas to get greener!

Joe